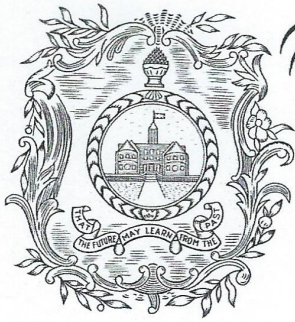


CORRESPONDENCE WITH IVOR NOEL HUME



*The
Colonial Williamsburg
Foundation
Williamsburg, Virginia 23185*

February 24, 1975

Mr. Marshall E. Overman
218 Fourth Avenue
Mt. Ephraim, New Jersey 08059

Dear Mr. Overman:

Thank you for your letter of February 19--which proved to be as interesting as your first.

The bottle is easily dealt with: it is of a type that began around 1685, but which was common c. 1700 and for a very few years thereafter. The coins are another matter. Your informant who claimed that they were issued in such large quantities that they were used as ballast, must either have been joking or monumentally misinformed. The coins belong to the group known as William III, Type 2 (1698-9) and are classified by the British Museum as rare or very rare. The example that you sent me is a sub-species having no stop after the 1699 date, cf. C. Wilson Peck, English Copper, Tin and Bronze Coins in the British Museum, 1558-1958 (2nd ed., London 1970), p. 172, No. 675.

It is my opinion, however, that the coin you sent me is a forgery, and I would take a fair sized bet that many of the others shown in your photograph are from the same unofficial stable. I should preface my reasoning by saying that although this example is from a cast blank (as are most forgeries) the official William III copper coins were minted under contract, and there was trouble between the Royal Mint and the contractor over his use of cast blanks. So that alone is not evidence of forgery. The key features, however, are these:

1. There should be a line beneath Britannia on the reverse separating her from the empty exergue. In your case there is no such line; instead there is an incuse area simulating the exergue.

February 24, 1975

2. The diameter of official Type 2 halfpennies should range between 28 and 29mm. Yours varies from 26.5 to 27mm.
3. The official halfpennies of this type should weigh between 147.3 and 181.1 grains (with an average of 157.3). Yours weighs approximately 138 grains.

Together the decreased diameter and reduced weight point to the margin of profit that a forgery could expect to extract from forging halfpennies. In addition, besides the reverse die lacking the exergue bar, the legend and date are in letters and digits much heavier than occur on any official issues that I have seen. I might add that I have not been able to find a parallel for the small and crowded obverse "S" in GVLIELMVS. One more point: collectively the group seems considerably more yellow (brassy?) than one would expect the genuine coins to be. That could, perhaps, result from the circumstances of their burial. In rebuttal I might note that I have one legitimate example of a William III (Type 2) in my own collection. It comes from the mud of the Thames at London--therefore a rather similar location to your discovery--yet there is no yellowness to the metal.

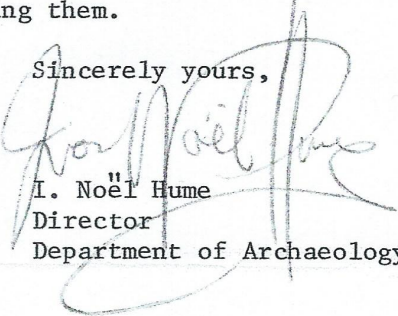
What, then, is the explanation for the presence of so large a number of forgeries (assuming that the others are, indeed, the same as the submitted specimen) in the Delaware River mud? Two possible answers come to mind:

1. A coiner was at work in Philadelphia at the turn of the eighteenth century. Fearing that he was about to be apprehended, he pitched the incriminating evidence into the river.
2. The coins were forged in England and used in payment to an American tradesman who, rather than be charged with circulating forged coins, decided to cut his losses and dumped them into the river.

Considering the number of coiners who were working in London in the early eighteenth century, the second explanation seems the more reasonable (cf. All The Best Rubbish, pp. 104-6).

I hope that this information will be of some assistance. Should you be down this way and would like to bring the rest of the coins with you, I would be glad to go through them to see whether they are all forgeries. In the meantime, I suggest that you try measuring and weighing them.

Sincerely yours,


I. Noël Hume
Director
Department of Archaeology

Telephone: 703-229-1000



*The
Colonial Williamsburg
Foundation*

DRAWER C
WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA 23185

February 26, 1975

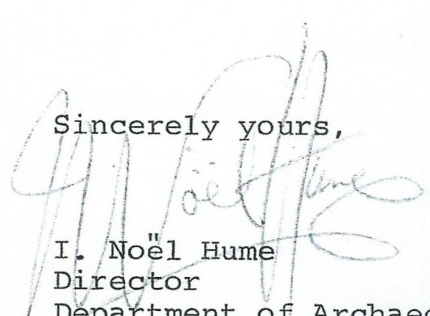
Mr. Marshall E. Overman
218 Fourth Avenue
Mt. Ephraim, New Jersey 08059

Dear Mr. Overman:

In writing to you yesterday I forgot to send back your excellent photographs and to return your coin. It was very kind of you to offer to give the latter to me but I really feel that it belongs with the rest of the group and that they should be published in their entirety in an appropriate numismatic journal.

Again with my best wishes.

Sincerely yours,


I. Noël Hume
Director
Department of Archaeology

Enclosures

218 Fourth Avenue
Mt. Ephraim, N.J. 08059
March 3, 1975

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
Drawer C
Williamsburg, Va. 23185

Dear Mr. Hume:

Received your letter of February 24 and once again thank you for the very interesting, factual, and theoretical information about the bottle and coins.

I have more than a casual interest in U.S. coins, but do not share the same enthusiasm for foreign coins mainly because I know so little about them and find it difficult to identify many of those I own. That, and the fact that all the coins I found in Philadelphia appear to have been well worn probably explains why I've given 15 of the halfpennies to friends without knowing anything about them other than they're all dated 1699.

However, your letter has renewed my interest, and I'll follow your suggestion regarding the weighing and measuring of those remaining.

I have twice visited Colonial Williamsburg (1967 & 1969) and found it everything I expected. Although circumstances do not permit a return visit at this time, it's still possible. And should that happen, I'll certainly bring my coins and be in touch with you.

When I've completed the weighing and measuring process, I'll give you the results.

Thanks again for all your help.

Sincerely,

Marshall E. Overman

218 Fourth Avenue
Mt. Ephraim, N.J. 08059
April 7, 1975

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
Drawer C
Williamsburg, Va. 23185

Dear Mr. Hume:

I started to draft this letter a few weeks ago, and although at that time the enclosed list included all but two of the Britannia halfpennies in my collection, it is now obsolete. Since that time I've found nine more and my son and another boy found four. I also know that two others have been picked up so that brings the total to 193.

If undersize and weight is any indication these coins are forgeries, then we hit the "jackpot". As you can see from the enclosed list (which includes only the coins I weighed and measured) only three are in a weight class that would qualify them as authentic coins. However, their size more or less eliminates them. Although all the coins are well worn, or at least they appear that way, it is obvious that some were stamped on thicker blanks than others. Based on size, weight, stamping, etc., I'll assume they're fakes until I have the opportunity to have them examined by someone like yourself who is more knowledgeable in this field.

I'm enclosing a copy of a letter received by my friend in answer to his inquiry about these coins. Since he (my friend) didn't send a coin for examination, the letter in itself doesn't tell us much. If nothing else, these coins are a conversation piece and will certainly be an interesting addition to any display of colonial relics. Incidentally, although the other half of this collection is not listed here, it falls in the same category, undersize and underweight.

Those coins that were recently found were recovered at the disposal area as were most of the items shown in the enclosed pictures. So much for William III halfpennies.

The following is a rundown on the enclosed pictures which you may keep if you wish:

Mr. I. Hume

-2-

April 7, 1975

After reading the chapter on Firearms and Gunflints, discussing this lock with black powder buffs, and checking other publications on antique firearms, I've concluded that this lock is from a first issue Brown Bess musket. The banana shape of this lock is mentioned as being on the earliest model, leading me to believe that it's from the Queen Anne period. The name Wilson is engraved on the side between the hammer and the frizzen pan, and to the right and above the N in Wilson is a crown and some other symbol. No rust spots are evident, but some parts are missing or broken. The top jaw screw and top jaw are missing with part of the screw broken off in the bottom jaw. Both the main and frizzen springs are broken but the rest of the lock appears to be intact. Some parts are still frozen, but aside from soaking it in oil, I haven't attempted to remove or loosen anything.

The padlock, with movable parts still working, appears to be of the type you refer to as bag shape. It is in surprisingly good condition for its many years in the mud.

This one has some letters stamped on it to the left of the key hole. The lettering, which is upside down when looking at the lock as pictured, looks like TLCWE. The C could be a weak O and the E is questionable.

The buckles, brass, pewter, and iron all resemble those pictured in your book. These too, have been well preserved.

Incidentally, as a professional archaeologist, you probably shudder at the mere mention of the word "detector", and the thought of what damage might be done by some irresponsible individuals using one on an archaeological site. I'm sure there are instances where this is true, but I hope you won't classify all us detector owners in that category. Under the circumstances, the expressway site is ideal for using a detector since the destruction of the area has already been accomplished by the bulldozers. The resulting debris, having been carted off to the disposal area, has become thoroughly mixed and includes four centuries of relics and trash. Searching under these conditions is time consuming and tiring, but it's fun. Most of the people searching for relics (with and without detectors) are for the most part interested in the historical value of the items being found, and have a fair amount of knowledge about many of these artifacts.

I'm also enclosing one of the 1699 halfpennies. Please keep it for your collection or add it to the Williamsburg collection. It's not much, but as a forgery it may be of interest to others. This one was found at the disposal area and is presumably part of the original deposit. Just think how many will never be found!

Mr. I. Hume

-3-

April 7, 1975

Nails and spikes continue to be found with little difficulty. Likewise some miscellaneous buckles which are usually broken. I recently found a carpenter's chisel with the name Samuel Treeth stamped on it with a crown over the name. Have not as yet identified this one.

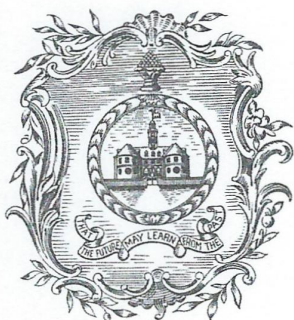
If you have any comments about the enclosed pictures, I'd enjoy hearing from you. Enclosed is a self addressed stamped envelope for your reply.

Thanks again for all your help.

Sincerely,

Marshall E. Overman

Enclosures



Telephone: 703-229-1000

The Colonial Williamsburg Foundation

DRAWER C

WILLIAMSBURG, VIRGINIA 23185

April 11, 1975

Mr. Marshall E. Overman
218 Fourth Avenue
Mt. Ephraim, New Jersey 08059

Dear Mr. Overman:

Thank you for your most welcome letter of April 7 and for the excellent pictures of your artifacts. Please do not feel apologetic about the means by which these interesting items were retrieved; I am well acquainted with the demands and limitations of rescue archaeology!

It was good of you to go to so much trouble to weigh the 1699 halfpennies, and I am gratified to see that my thesis stands up. It is a pity that the entire collection cannot be published, for I would think that it would make a very worthwhile contribution to the Journal of the British Numismatic Association. After all your trouble in measuring and weighing the coins, something useful should be done with the results. I might add that I lack the strength to argue further with you, and so will not send back the coin which you have returned to me! Let me simply say that, should you at any time be in a position to exhibit the whole collection, I will be most happy to send this one back to you.

I was extremely interested in your reference to a carpenter's chisel bearing the name Samuel Treeth. It immediately rang a bell with me, for we have an axe from the James Anderson House site in Williamsburg (and which is now exhibited in our museum there) whose catalogue card provides the following information: "The bit has a stamped inscription which appears to read ^{SAMSON} FREETH." The axe was in poor condition and the inscription, therefore, only partially visible. I have no doubt that yours is the correct interpretation, and therefore your information will be added to the card. It is always gratifying when people who write to us for information, are able to broaden our knowledge at the same time. Such occurrences are by no means a rarity; nevertheless it is reassuring, for I frequently have to justify (at least to myself) the amount of time I spend each week responding to visitors

Mr. Marshall E. Overman

-2-

April 11, 1975

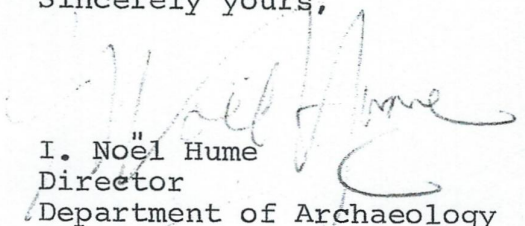
and postal queries. I might add that I have long been a supporter of the conscientious amateur, and so it is always particularly rewarding to be able to learn from them.

I enclose information from Blackmore which is all we have to offer on your Wilson musket lock. You will be pleased to see that your identification is confirmed. The padlock is an extremely interesting specimen, and it is wonderful to see it so well preserved. We have many of this type, but they are in such appalling condition that they are barely more than lumps of rust. I might add that this is a classic example of what I call the bag-shaped form, and is much more characteristic of the type than is that shown in my Guide to Artifacts. I suggest that the maker's mark is, in fact T. LOWE and not TLCWE.

As you yourself note, the buckles are largely of types illustrated in the aforesaid book. Incidentally, are you acquainted with the first volume of our Occasional Papers in Archaeology entitled Five Artifact Studies? One of the articles deals with the evolution of shoe buckles, another with horseshoes, and another with bayonets; and it may be that any or all of these will be helpful to you. I was particularly interested in the apparent pewter buckle which appears to have a piece of sprue attached to one side. As it is a harness buckle, I am surprised that this would be made of pewter; and I am wondering, therefore, whether it is actually an unfinished pattern intended for use in sand casting. Either way, the buckle is almost certainly unfinished, and might point to the presence of a metal worker in the area.

With best wishes,

Sincerely yours,


I. Noel Hume
Director
Department of Archaeology

INH: jh
Enclosure

P.S. We are pleased to accept your invitation to retain the pictures.

218 Fourth Avenue
Mt. Ephraim, N.J. 08059
June 2, 1975

Colonial Williamsburg Foundation
Drawer C
Williamsburg, Virginia 23181

Dear Mr. Hume:

After searching through my list of excuses, I've come to the conclusion that none are appropriate so I'll just say forgive me for not answering your letter of April 11 sooner. Actually I wanted to include some additional pictures and wasn't quite sure which ones to send you.

Thanks for the copies of the pages from Blackmore. I'm happy to learn that the information on the Brown Bess lock obtained from other sources was correct. Incidentally, one of my best sources of reference was a catalog published by Dixie Gun Works, Inc., Union City, Tennessee (rare antique gun supplies). The publication contains a storehouse of information.

The mystery surrounding the disposition of the 1699 halfpennies remains a secret, but there is no secret about where they were found and continue to be found. I wouldn't care to hazard a guess as to how many may have been in the original hoard, and it now seems likely that they were dumped, if that's the word, in several places. The only reason I say this is because they have been found at three different disposal locations where dumping took place over a period of several weeks. Not too long ago, at a new location, well over a hundred of these pieces were found by some friends of mine; and I'm certain many others were picked up by strangers. In view of this do you still feel that something should be written about these coins?

While I'm on the subject of coins you might be interested to know that numerous coins other than the 1699's have been found. There have been many later dated Britannia's (early 1700's), Hibernias, Spanish, French, U.S. large cents, plus one 1803 silver dollar, Mexican pillar dollars, and others. My son recently found a replica of an 1803 half eagle. It was the right size, wrong weight, and had the name Kettle in micro letters to the right of the date. Just found out it was a game counter made by Henry Kettle, of Birmingham, England.

Samuel Treeth or Freeth? Your mention of the name Samson Freeth sent me back to the celler for a re-examination of the chisel with Samuel Treeth's name on it. There is no mistake about Samuel, but you're right, it's Freeth not Treeth. Sorry about that! At least between us we got the full name. That's what happens when you deal with amateurs.

June 2, 1975

No, I'm not familiar with your Occasional Papers in Archaeology, but I'd like to learn more about them. Are they issued periodically? If so, can they be purchased, and for what price?

I'm enclosing the buckle or pattern you mentioned as being a harness buckle. Perhaps the picture was deceiving. In any case, please keep it.

I think I mentioned that numerous buttons, military and other, have been found. On page 165 of Here Lies Virginia, you make reference to a Gilt made button. Among the several buttons that I've picked up I noticed one that, at first glance, looked like a worn coin. It was only after I washed it that I realized it was a copper button with the eye broken off, and stamped on the reverse side was the name I.G.Gilt. Maybe it's from the same family of buttons as yours!

I'm also enclosing some additional pictures that were taken by my neighbor. These are extra copies which you may keep. My comments follow:

Pictures 1 and 2

This escutcheon fascinated me and I didn't realize it had the date 1772 stamped on it until after I cleaned it. Looks like it might have been on a large door or an equally large chest.

Picture 3

Although none of the keys fit any of the locks that have been found, they are interesting. I guess it's their size that makes them so! The bag-shaped lock is the same one you have a picture of. The lock next to it was interesting because the key hole cover, which is brass, has PATENT stamped on it. And although it is similiar to other locks I've seen, it may be of later vintage. On the far right is the large escutcheon, reverse side, I guess.

Picture 4

This miscellaneous collection of spoons appears to be of the "bargain basement" type with no makers' mark stamped on them. The handle on the only complete one has a scallop shell decoration along with some fancy scroll work. The letter "p"

Picture 4 (continued)

is also incised on the handle as well as the bowl, but it appears they were added by someone other than the maker possibly to identify it as property belonging to some tavern keeper.

The expressway project is at a standstill pending the negotiation of a new contract with the operating engineers. As a result, no excavation work has been done for several weeks. When the work commences we'll resume our searching. I guess that about brings us up to date.

Thanks again for all your help.

Sincerely yours,

Marshall E. Overman

On Display Here Sunday

Artifacts Unearthed In Philadelphia

More than two centuries ago in Philadelphia, Dock Creek ran through the center of the Society Hill section and many residents used it as a dumping ground. Dock Creek, with its relatively calm waters, was also a favorite spot for berthing all manner of sailing vessels.

Eventually the creek became increasingly shallow and towards the end of the 18th century it was paved over and became known as "Dock Street" and still bears that name today.

Literally thousands of early American relics were sealed under and only came to light again when construction began in the area on Interstate 95.

Many important relics were then unearthed—a large quantity by members of the South Jersey Treasure Hunters. A major display of these items will be placed on view Sunday between 2 and 5 p.m. at the Nail Mill Museum by Marshall Overman and William Paull, members of the group.

In November of 1974, an article appeared in a Philadelphia newspaper about workmen finding a cannon on wheels while digging in the Dock street area of the expressway's path. Overman and Paull rode to the site and walked around. The two normally hunt with electronic-type metal detectors, as do the

other members of their club, so this type of experience was new to them.

Paull reached down into the mud and found a circa 1745 bottle and confesses that he then became an instant lover of history.

The two searched the site every weekend throughout the winter and spring and as the expressway excavation became deeper the bits and pieces of artifacts became older and

older. By March the construction site became an increasingly dangerous place to work. The two then began to follow dump trucks to a number of different areas where the earth was being used as fill.

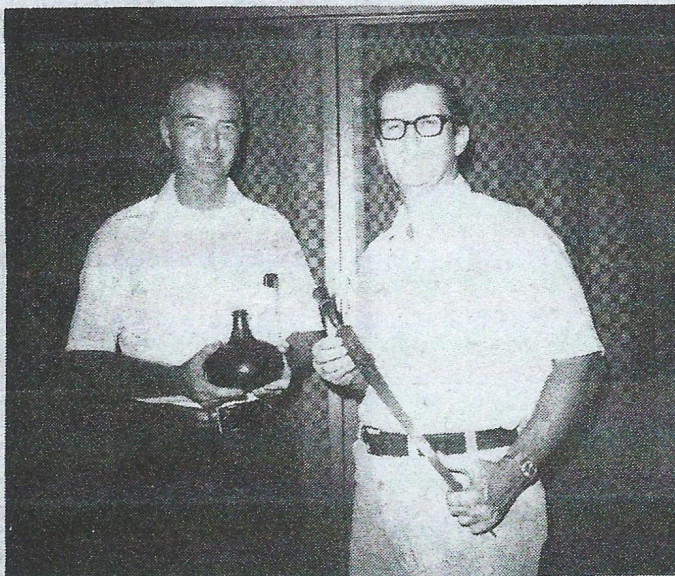
They began using metal detectors and the task was made even easier when a bulldozer leveled off the area.

It was at one of the fill sites, in a pile which had not been spread yet, that Paull found an

English "Swival Cannon" measuring 40 inches long and weighing 158 pounds.

Also discovered were various onion shaped bottles, nails, tools, buttons, seals, cannon balls, smoking pipes and gun parts. Other relics unearthed were buckles, utensils, bayonets and hundreds of early American and European coins.

Overman reflected on the experience by stating, "Although the expressway project is still incomplete, the most productive area, in terms of relics, is now covered with concrete. However, the next truckload of dirt being removed may contain—well who knows. Another cannon!"



TREASURE HUNTERS—Marshall Overman, left, holding an 18th century bottle, and William Paull, with an early bayonet, are the two treasure hunters who discovered hundreds of early American artifacts unearthed during the construction of Interstate 95 in Philadelphia. The route of the expressway cuts through an unusually rich archeological site which provided much information about the lives of colonial Philadelphians. The relics will be on view Sunday at the Nail Mill Museum in Bridgeton City Park.

CORRESPONDENCE WITH ERIC P. NEWMAN

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

October 26, 1976

Mr. Marshall Overman
218 Fourth Avenue
Mt. Ephraim, NJ 08059

Dear Mr. Overman:

David W. Loll was kind enough to give us your name and copies of the letters from our friend, Mr. Hume.

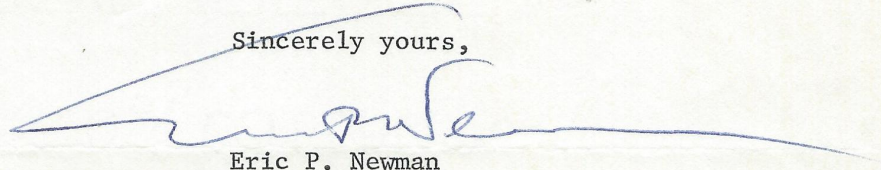
Mr. Loll has sent us his pieces for study and we have learned that they are counterfeit, cast in sand, and individually filed on the edge. We have weighed them, measured them and are studying their metallic purity. Professor Peter Gaspar of Washington University is working with me on it. We propose to write up the find.

We would very much like further information from you. Exactly how many did you find of the 1699 type or of other types? Exactly where did you find them? What weight or measurements have you recorded from them? Are you willing to send all or part of them to us for study and return?

We believe this is a most unusual trove and the coins probably were counterfeited in England and sent to America for sale at a discount. The American who was paying them out hid them so it would not be obvious as to his action.

We look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Eric P. Newman', with a long, sweeping horizontal line extending to the right.

Eric P. Newman

jah

cc: Mr. David W. Loll
Dr. Peter Gaspar

218 4th Avenue
Mt. Ephraim, N.J. 08059

November 5, 1976

Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

I'm pleased to learn that you plan to do a write-up on the 1699's and hope the following information will be of some help.

Since I'm not sure what Dave Loll has told you, please bear with me if I repeat anything.

A total of 178 coins, all the same type, were found in the embankment of a deep trench in what is now the underground section of the Delaware Expressway I-95. The search area is bounded by Walnut Street to the north, Front Street to the west, New Delaware Avenue to the east, and Spruce Street to the south. All the coins were found in an area approximately 10' x 10'. Several were found stuck together with marl giving reason to believe they were hidden or disposed of at the same time. Since the area they were found was probably in, or on the bank of what used to be Dock Creek (see enclosed map), it's quite possible this trove was dumped overboard from one of the many ships that used Dock Creek prior to the time it was covered over.

Unfortunately the enclosed map is not to scale, likewise the overlay, and the exact location of our find was not plotted. I would guess that the coins were not found in context with their original disposition because of the way they were scattered. This was obviously done by bulldozers and other earth movers gnawing away at this site. However, I would suspect they were dredged up in the immediate vicinity and deposited where we found them.

I presently have 97 of these coins in my possession, several of which were found at two of four other disposal sites. At the suggestion of Mr. Noel Hume, I weighed and measured the coins I had at that time (see enclosed analysis). As you can see all were under size and weight and considered counterfeit by Mr. Noel Hume.

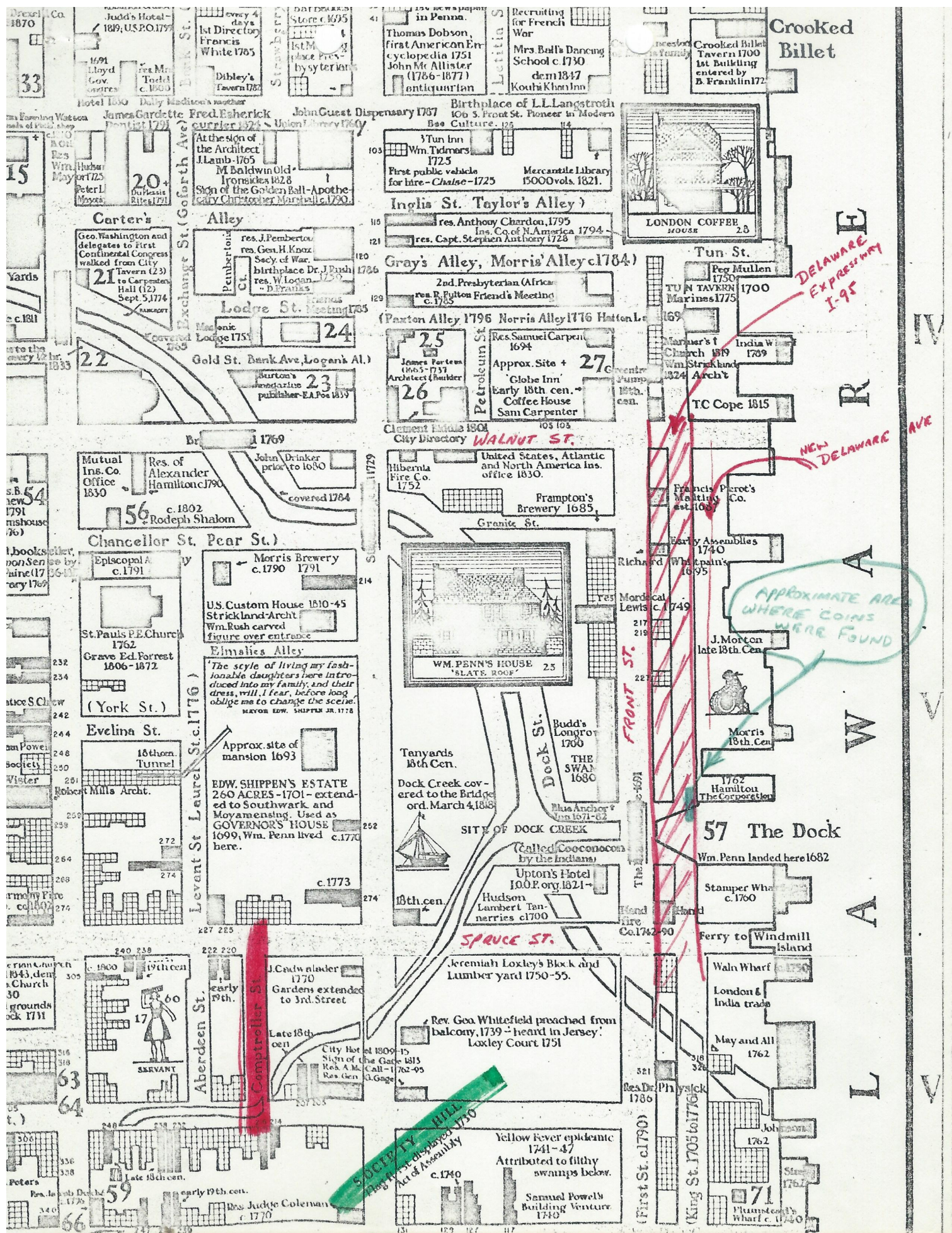
Although my collection is presently mounted on a wall plaque, if you feel that an examination of these coins would assist you in your study, I'm sure I can arrange to send them to you.

Sincerely yours,

Marshall E. Overman

Marshall E. Overman

gb
enc. (2)



• William III
Copper Halfpennies
1699

Analysis of size and weight

<u>Coin No.</u>	<u>mm Size</u>	<u>grain Weight</u>	<u>Coin No.</u>	<u>mm Size</u>	<u>grain Weight</u>
1	26.6-26.9	67.6	41	27.1-27.4	112.3
2	26.7-26.9	77.3	42	27.0-27.1	112.8
3	26.6-26.9	81.5	43	27.4-27.7	113.1
4	26.8-27.2	81.6	44	26.7-27.0	114.3
5	26.6-27.0	84.7	45	26.8-27.0	114.5
6	26.8-27.0	87.7	46	26.8-27.0	115.1
7	25.9-26.3	89.9	47	26.8-27.0	116.7
8	25.5-27.0	90.1	48	27.3-27.4	116.9
9	26.6-26.8	90.5	49	26.6-27.3	117.3
10	26.9-27.5	91.2	50	27.2-27.3	118.6
11	26.4-26.7	92.4	51	27.0-27.1	118.7
12	26.6-27.4	92.8	52	26.9-27.0	118.8
13	26.3-26.9	93.4	53	26.5-27.0	120.5
14	26.9-27.0	94.2	54	27.0-27.1	120.8
15	26.9-27.3	97.5	55	27.2-27.4	122.3
16	26.9-27.5	97.8	56	27.2-27.3	122.4
17	26.7-27.3	97.8	57	27.0-27.3	123.1
18	26.0-26.7	98.7	58	27.2-27.3	123.5
19	27.3-27.4	99.0	59	26.7-27.3	123.6
20	26.7-27.4	99.7	60	26.9-27.2	126.0
21	26.1-26.4	101.0	61	27.0-27.2	127.2
22	26.7-27.1	101.1	62	27.2-27.4	127.8
23	27.3-27.4	101.9	63	27.2-27.4	128.8
24	26.7-27.0	102.0	64	26.7-27.1	131.1
25	26.5-27.0	104.3	65	26.7-27.1	132.2
26	26.7-27.3	104.8	66	27.1-27.3	132.3
27	26.9-27.4	105.7	67	27.1-27.2	132.5
28	27.0-27.2	106.0	68	26.8-26.9	133.0
29	26.5-26.8	106.5	69	26.5-26.9	133.4
30	26.9-27.0	107.1	70	27.5-27.6	134.7
31	26.9-27.0	107.6	71	27.5-27.7	139.4
32	27.0-27.3	107.6	72	27.3-27.5	141.5
33	26.2-26.5	107.7	73	27.8-28.3	142.1
34	26.9-27.0	107.9	74	27.1-27.3	142.5
35	26.8-26.9	109.7	75	27.0-27.1	143.4
36	26.9-27.2	110.9	76	27.1-27.2	146.5
37	26.7-27.0	111.4	77	27.0-27.1	153.1
38	26.0-26.3	111.4	78	27.0-27.3	161.3
39	26.9-27.1	111.9	79	27.0-27.4	161.4
40	26.7-26.9	112.3			

Marshall E. Overman
March 15, 1975



L-95 CONSTRUCTION FEB-75

WALNUT + DEL. AVE

L-95 - CONSTRUCTION FEB-75

WALNUT + DEL. AVE

L-95 CONSTRUCTION FEB-75

WALNUT + DEL. AVE.



PHILA 3RD + CALLOW HILL SEPT. 76

3RD + CALLOW HILL PHILA. SEPT. 76

PHILA PA. 3RD + CALLOW HILL SEPT. 76

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

November 12, 1976

Mr. Marshall E. Overman
218 4th Street
Mt. Ephraim, NJ 08059

Dear Mr. Overman:

Your very interesting and detailed letter of November 5, 1976 is at hand. Thank you so much.

First I wish to have you clarify the total number of coins found. Does the 178 total consist only of the combined total of your find and the Loll find at the 10 x 10 foot I-95 location? Were there other locations nearby or elsewhere where you found the 18 other coins and were they all William III pieces?

Is there any other group of William III coins found by others to your knowledge?

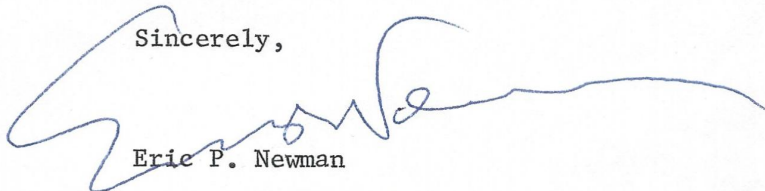
Do you have any specially defective, double cast, or unusual coins in your group which I might examine? Do all of yours have edge ridges?

I have asked the Library Company of Philadelphia to check out the merchants who were in the area in the early eighteenth century and also at what date Dock Creek was covered over. They have agreed to be of help as they are naturally intrigued.

Will you look at your pieces and advise whether the face and back are in the same relative position such as ↑↑, or ↑↓, or ↑↗, when turned on the horizontal axis, or do they vary? The normal coin in your pocket is ↑↑ if so turned.

Thank you for your continued help.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

jah

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

218 Fourth Ave.
Mt. Ephraim, N.J. 08059

December 2, 1976

Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Hope by now you've received the information you requested from the Phila. Library Co. I'd be interested in learning what they reported.

In order to clarify any misunderstanding, the 178 1699 William III coins were the only ones, to my knowledge, that were actually found at the I-95 site. They are, however, only a portion of what are known to have been found to date. Mr. William Paull, his son Steve, myself and my son Scott were the only ones involved in the initial find.

During the winter 74/75 work on this section of I-95 was moving along at a rapid pace with tons of dirt being excavated and removed daily. The day after the initial find of 178 coins, the project site was posted with "No Trespassing" signs. This was obviously done to prevent any accidents and had nothing to do with the finding of the coins. This area was extremely hazardous as you can see from the enclosed pictures.

Posting the project site was no problem since we knew where the dirt was coming from and where it was going. By the following weekend (probably the next day) the area in which we first found the coins had been removed. The next thing to do was search the known disposal areas. Unfortunately, since we all work, our search time was limited to weekends, usually Sundays, when work crews were inactive. In the meantime tons and tons of dirt had been dumped and bulldozed during the week leaving a vast area to cover on a hit or miss basis. I don't know whether or not Dave mentioned it but our searching was done with metal detectors.

I have no idea how many coins were found by people unknown to me but several of our club members found them including Dave Loll and his father. Dave's collection was not a part of the original 178.

Although numerous other coins were recovered, both U.S. and foreign, only the 1699's were found in quantity, and to my knowledge all were William III. That's a rather broad statement, but based on what we've learned about the coins, it's unlikely that any authentic pieces were found dated 1699.

If my collection is any indication of what the others are like, there are numerous defects. None of my coins are symmetrical, several are pitted possibly from a sand mold, and the color of the metal, thickness and size varies. I have one double stamped coin which I'm enclosing for your examination.

- 2 -

Since I know a few people who have found these coins, I'll try and contact them and get the information you desire. I'll also reexamine my own collection and report my findings.

Hope this additional information will be of some help.

Sincerely,

Marshall E. Overman

gb

enc.

The enclosed 7 pictures will give you some idea of what the area looked like at the time of our find. If we had been able to dig further into the embankment we might have recovered more coins. However, we were quite apprehensive about a cave-in which would have no doubt buried us, so we quit while we were ahead.

Once again, Dave's coins were not a part of the original find but were recovered later at a disposal site.

Overman



The enclosed 7 pictures will give you some idea of what the area looked like at the time of our find. If we had been able to dig further into the embankment we might have recovered more coins. However, we were quite apprehensive about a cave-in which would have no doubt buried us, so we quit while we were ahead.

Once again, Dave's coins were not a part of the original find but were recovered later at a disposal site.

Overman

FEB-75

LOOKING SOUTH - THIS IS THE
COVERED AREA OF I-95 IN FRONT OF
SOCIETY HILL SECTION.

#1

FEB-75

LOOKING NORTH FROM APPROX. AREA
COINS WERE FOUND

BENJAMIN FRANKLIN BRIDGE IN BACKGROUND

#2



FEB-75

LOOKING EAST. COINS FOUND
APPROXIMATELY IN LOWER CENTER OF BANK
NEAR PILINGS

#3

FEB-75

GENERAL AREA OF FIND
VERY HAZARDOUS AND MUDDY

#4

FEB-75 BILL PAULL SCRATCHING AWAY AT THE
EMBANKMENT WHERE COINS WERE FOUND.
THIS WAS ABOUT 15-20 FEET BELOW
PRESENT STREET LEVEL.

#5



FEB 75 BILL PAULL WITH A HANDFUL OF COINS

#6

THIS IS MY SHARE OF OUR ORIGINAL FIND

#7



Picture By BOB BARTOSZ 2/75

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 7, 1976

Mr. Marshall Overman
218 Fourth Avenue
Mt. Ephraim, NJ 08059

Dear Mr. Overman:

You are really very helpful. Thanks.

The Library Company advises that the houses north of Dock Creek were at a lower level than Front Street and I enclose the description of them.

The pictures of finding the coins are most interesting. Do you have negatives of these from which I could make black and white prints for publication? I would like #5 (Bill Paull with a hoe) and #3 (the embankment with piling), and #2 (the bridge in the background).

As to the other coins you located (US or foreign) I would like a list of what you found. Loll found 12 halfpence from William & Mary to George III, some being lead and other counterfeits and others genuine.

I hope you have luck locating the others to see what they found.

The location of the dirt dumps would also be of interest to me.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

jah

Encl.

December 16, 1976

Mr. Eric P. Newman
Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Ave
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

My good friend, Marshall Overman, has kept me abreast of your correspondence with him concerning the 1699 counterfeits. I was asked if I might cooperate with you in studying my specimens. Unfortunately, like Marshall, I too, have most of mine mounted in a picture frame. Like the others, mine are of varying thicknesses, diameters, color, and weight. I have one double struck reverse. I only have 110 of the 142 that my son Steven and I found. He found the first one of the hoard.

I've found other counterfeits (Britannia half-pennies) of 1738, 1747, 1749, one in lead or pewter with double struck reverse. (Geo. III) Also, a 1733 French Lou (not silver). The piece I find fascinating is a half penny (Britannia) of the 1740's that is stamped in lead that is larger than half dollar. That is to say that there is extra metal all around the coin.

Enclosed is an old club Newsletter that reprinted a story I wrote for Western Treasures Magazine about the artifacts that were found. I think you'll find it interesting and give you a better idea of the things that were found and being thrown away.

If I can be of assistance to you, please don't hesitate to write. I have slides of the above coins if you wish to see them. Good luck with your research.

Sincerely,

William R. Paull

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

December 20, 1976

Mr. William R. Paull
16 Albatross Road
Audubon Park, NJ 08106

Dear Mr. Paull:

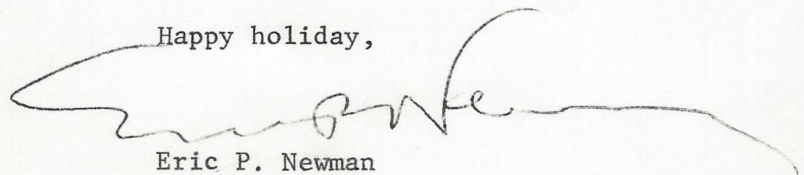
All of you metal-detector coin finders have been very helpful and I appreciate the letters and data. You suggested that I might write you for further assistance and I am so doing.

Here is what I need from you:

1. The issue and pages of Western Treasures Magazine which contained your story. Perhaps I can order one.
2. You and your son found 142 of the 1699 pieces and the Overmans say there were 178 found in the embankment and they now have 95 (a few from dump sites). Your article says over 300 were found in the embankment and 300 altogether by club members. The Lolls found at least 72 in the dump sites. Can you clarify my figures? Are some pieces other than the 1699 included? Were there other finds?
3. What were the other Spanish American Silver Dollars found? Your daughter found the 1755 Mexico City mintage.
4. Is the French ecu of 1733 a cast counterfeit in lead?
5. The wide lip around the circa 1740 English halfpenny lead counterfeit is curious. There were many English made copper counterfeits of George II halfpence in circulation, but lead ones probably were just as acceptable. The Lolls have lead counterfeits also. I think your lead piece was to be cut down before being put in circulation.
6. At the I-95 site or the dump sites, how many large U.S. Cents were found? What was the latest date on any coin which was found?

I look forward to hearing from you.

Happy holiday,



Eric P. Newman

jah

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION

218 Fourth Avenue
Mt. Ephraim, New Jersey 08059

December 31, 1976

Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Thank you for the information from the Encyclopedia of Philadelphia regarding the Budd's Row houses; very interesting in light of what we witnessed during the excavation of this area over a period of several months.

Although you mentioned the pictures I sent, you didn't mention the coin which hopefully arrived also.

Incidentally, the pictures were made from slides as were most of the pictures I took. For whatever purpose they may serve you, I'm enclosing slides, hopefully in chronological order. They will give you some idea of what the area looked like and how it changed. All I ask is that you return them after you make whatever copies you want.

The disposal areas will probably drive some 25th century archaeologist out of his mind. It is just unbelievable what we found, and we only scratched the surface. Unfortunately it all happened too fast, and the bulk of what was unearthed at I-95 is now buried again.

Did we find any other coins? Numerous. But unfortunately I don't know who found what except for a few people.

I don't know how far you want to go with your write-up or how soon you need this data, but you should contact at least two other people who have found numerous coins, some of which are very interesting.

First you should contact Bill Paull who, in my opinion, has the best collection of colonial relics plus many coins both forgeries and authentic. These coins are in addition to the 123 1699's he has.

Next you should contact Fred Domzalski. Fred has, to the best of my knowledge, the only gold coin found, a French piece; numerous U.S. coins, and just recently found at one of the disposal sites, a 1785 Immune Columbia Copper. This coin was authenticated by a New York coin dealer and is described as a pattern piece.

Dave Loll, his father, and several of their close friends have found numerous coins at the disposal locations. You might ask Dave if the info he gave you includes all others, especially his father's.

I started this letter several days ago but the holiday season takes its toll in more ways than one, so all I can say is I'm sorry for the delay in answering your letter of December 7.

Bill Paull showed me your letter of December 20, a copy of which I now have before me. Your question of who found what, where, and how many, etc., is understandable, and hopefully I can clarify this situation. I think you can disregard any previous reference to total numbers of coins found and accept what I will give you now. The mix-up has to do with coins found and coins in our possession.

One thing has not changed and that is: A total of 178 1699's were found by the Overmans and the Paulls at the I-95 site on Feb. 16, 1975. I kept notes on our activities over a period of several months so I know my figures are correct. All other coins were found at disposal locations.

Bill Paull's reference to total coins found was an estimate based on actual finds and those thought to have been found by others. The actual figure, if known, might be well over 600.

The enclosed report will give you all the information I presently have on total numbers of 1699's found by people known to me. However, you must understand there were other people at the site who may have picked these coins off the ground at disposal site #2 (see notes on disposal sites). Also members from a Delaware club found these coins at the above mentioned disposal site, and possibly at other sites.

Speaking for myself, I have a net total of 98 1699's. In my letter of November 5 I said I had 97. I forgot to mention one that is mounted on a plaque.

My own collection of other than 1699's found at disposal sites is not too impressive, but here it is:

<u>Qty</u>	<u>Date</u>	
3	1723	Hibernia Halfpence
1	1730	Britannia Halfpenny
1	1748	" "
1	1779	Charles III Spanish 1 Real
1	1787	British Penny
1	1794	U.S. Large Cent
1	1805	U.S. Half Cent
1	1803	U.S. Half Eagle imitation. This has been identified as a game counter made by Henry Kettle of Birmingham, England.

Disposal Sites

Several locations are known to contain excavated material from I-95, and have accounted for the majority of finds to date. They are listed in the order in which we searched. The enclosed copy of a map of that section of Philadelphia is a poor substitute for a topographic map, but it'll have to do.

(1) The Weccacoe Ave. site was the largest and had been used as an "in city" dumping ground for what might be referred to as "clean fill" prior to the time they started trucking in material from I-95. The land on each side of Weccacoe Ave. was used to deposit the excavated dirt and eventually became built up some four to six feet or more above the present street level. Even without a detector this proved to be a very productive site, yielding numerous 18th century relics. And the continuous bulldozing of the daily deposits gave us new search areas for many weeks.

(2) Third and Oregon Avenue. This site was divided into three locations and provided a bonanza for a brief period. I would guess that the bulk of the 1699's other than the original finds came from this area.

(3) Third and Callowhill. Because of our success at sites 1 and 2, we seldom searched this area, and just recently (6 months ago) realized that it, too, had good possibilities. It is a huge mound of stock piled dirt, and, unfortunately, building rubble, etc. I recently found two Hibernian halfpence, both dated 1723 in two different locations at this site. I also found an 1890 Indian head which was in far worse condition than the Hibernia's. This mound is slowly disappearing, being used as fill at other locations in the city. However, each slice from the mound opens new search areas, so who knows what will be found. For the present, it is the only site that isn't overgrown.

The above locations no doubt contain many relics and coins but unfortunately the leveling of the sites with bulldozers has mixed modern trash with old. What a pity?

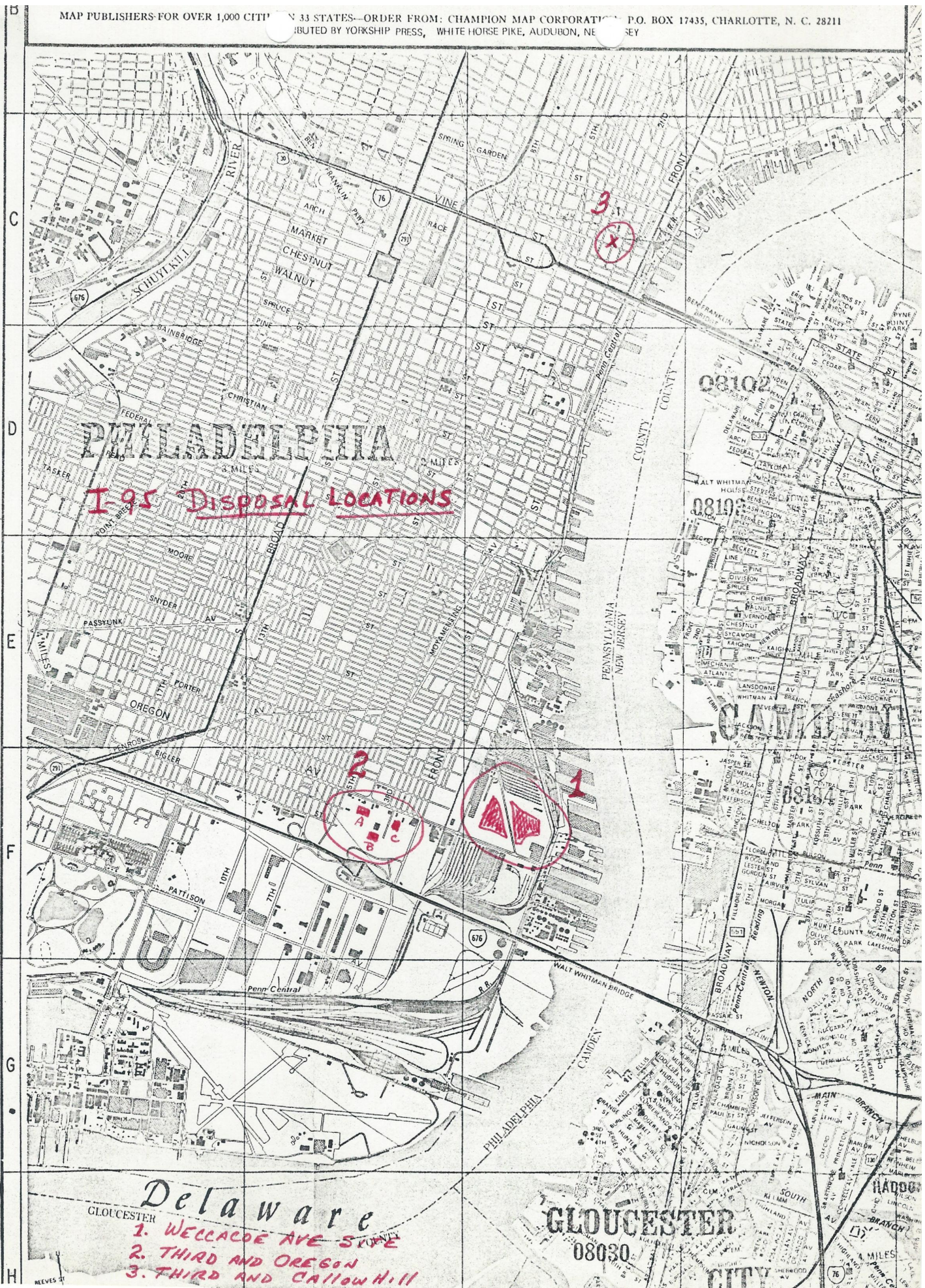
You have been in touch with Bill Paull so there is no need to include his address. However, you should write to Fred Domzalski. I talked with him, and I know he'd be willing to give you first hand info on his collection. His address is:

Fred Domzalski
1524 E. Berks Street
Philadelphia, Pa. 19125

Hope this additional data will be of some help.

Sincerely,

Marshall E. Overman



1699 BRITANNIA HALFPENCE
FOUND AT I-95 EXCAVATION SITE DOCK STREET & DELAWARE AVE., PHILA., PA.
AND
DISPOSAL SITES

Found By	* Other <u>Club Members</u>	<u>Domzalski</u>	<u>Loll</u>	<u>Overman</u>	<u>Paul</u>	<u>Total</u>
Total 1699's found at the site	-	-	-	95	83	178
Coins found at disposal sites	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>23</u>	<u>59</u>	<u>184</u>
Total coins found by members	15	15	72	118	142	362
Less: Coins given away	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>-</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>19</u>	<u>39</u>
Coins in possession of members	<u>15</u>	<u>15</u>	<u>72</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>123</u>	<u>323</u>

* This figure is an estimate

In addition to the above, it is known that numerous coins were picked up by:

Workmen, other collectors and members of Metal Detector's of Delaware

Budd's Row, or, Budd's Row, was an operation by English settlers in Philadelphia, and originally consisted of five two-story dwellings. These were erected about 1691. The Blue Anchor Inn (q. v.) was erected prior to Budd's operation, which adjoined it. Watson tells us that according to tradition the workmen engaged on the buildings stopped work and gathered around the landing place on Dock Creek, to welcome William Penn, when he first set foot on his newly formed town, in 1682. But more careful research has shown this to be erroneous. Samuel Richards, who died in 1827, aged fifty-nine years, was long a resident in one of the houses in Budd's Row—which stood on the west side of the present Front Street, between Walnut and Dock Streets. The row was owned by Thomas Budd, who later wrote a book entitled, "Good Order Established in Pennsylvania." Mr. Richards gave to Watson, the annalist, a very complete description of Budd's Row, which is here summarized:

346

ENCYCLOPEDIA OF PHILADELPHIA

by Joseph Jackson
(Harrisburg 1931)

"Budd's Row was formerly ten houses in all," he wrote, "five houses on the west side of Front Street nearest to the Drawbridge, on the north end, were built first, then five more in continuation further north. They were the first built houses in Philadelphia. The houses of Budd's Row were all two stories, were first framed of heavy timber and filled with bricks; the wood, however, was concealed, and only showed the lintels or plate pieces over the windows and doors, which were covered with mouldings; the uprights for windows and doors were grooved into that cross timber, and looked like ordinary door and window frames. The whole buildings were founded underground on a layer of sap slab-boards, and yet when some of them were taken up, twenty-two years ago, by Richards, to build his present three-story brick house, No. 136 (254), they were all hard and sound; but after a week's exposure crumbled to dust.

"This 'row' of houses was so much lower than the present Front Street that for many years the paved carriage-street was from three to four feet higher toward the Drawbridge than the foot-pavement along the row. At the south end of the foot pavement, to ascend up into Dock Street, there was a flight of four steps and a hand rail—this was before the old tavern, then called the Boatswain and Call, but which was originally Guest's Blue Anchor, the first built house in Philadelphia, and where William Penn landed from Chester. The houses numbered 126 and 128 (244 and 246 present numbering), were the only houses lately remaining of the original row, and they were of the second row. The whole row of ten houses went up to the stone house of Andrew Doe, now plastered over. All the houses once had leaden framed windows, of diagonal squares, and all the cellars were paved, and used to have water in them occasionally. The lots appertaining to Budd's Row all run out to Dock Street, and now one of the ancient houses remain there, a two-story brick; which is three feet below the pavement." The Row, from all accounts occupies the sites of the present properties numbered from 236 to 254 South Front Street.

[Biblio.—J. F. Watson, "Annals of Philadelphia," Vol. 1, pp. 343, 344 (Phila., 1884); Thomas Allen Glenn, "The Blue Anchor Tavern," Penna. Mag. of Hist. and Biog., Vol. XX No. 4, 1897.]

BUILDING AND LOAN ASSOCIATIONS—The first Building and Loan Association in the United States was organized in Philadelphia in 1831. On January 3rd, of that year, there a meeting was held in the public house of Thomas Sidebotham, at what is now 4217-21 Frankford Avenue. The call for the meeting explained that it was for the purpose of "forming an association to enable contributors thereof to build or purchase dwelling houses." The name selected for this organization, which was formed that evening, was "The Oxford Provident Building Association of Philadelphia County." Forty members signed the roll. The association matured in ten years, the first payment was made January 17, 1831, and the last on January 11, 1841, a share then being worth five hundred dollars. It is recorded that the first loan was made to a lamplighter in Frankford, Comly Rich, who borrowed five hundred dollars to buy his little two and a half story frame house, in Orchard Street, which is still standing.

DECEMBER 31, 1976

Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Thank you for your interest in our finds. I hope I'll be able to answer your six questions fully from your letter of December 20, 1976.

- 1- My story appeared in Western Treasures Magazine, the April 1976 edition, page 52. Inclosed is a form if you wish to order a back issue.
- 2- Your confusion as to the numbers of 1699's is understandable and I believe it is due to the number found and the number still in possession. Marshall Overman and I have gotten together and his letter to you on this date we feel should clear up any mistakes. He has spent a lot of time on the report and I for one appreciate it. He gives me copies of correspondence to/from you.
- 3- I know of only one, possibly two, other Spanish Milled Dollars found, it was in better condition than mine and dated 1753.
- 4- The cast counterfeit French coin is not in lead. (1733) It does not bend as the lead Britannia half pennies and definitely is not silver. Could it be a pewter and lead mixture? Refer to slides 18 and 19 enclosed.
- 5- The coin with the extra metal may be seen in slides 4 and 5. Mr. Ivor Noel Hume suggests that it might have been made in wooden mold, note graining and pinch marks. Also note the stamped letter S at 8'o'clock.
- 6- The number of large cents found would be difficult to accurately account for. My list is enclosed and Marshall

sent you his. A guess is that a total would be between 20 and 30. My earliest coin was a 1681 Hibernia half cent and latest was 1907 Indianhead penny. Quite a span of years.

I hope I have answered your questions and look forward to hearing from you again. Enclosed is a list of all the coins I (and-my family) found at the site and dumping sites. The slides are of the counterfeit coins in question and you may make copies of them but please send them back when you have finished as they are of a part of my slide presentation.

- #2 and #3 at excavation site I-95 first finds of 1699 Britannia half-pennies. Scott and Marshall Overman --- Steve and Bill Paull were the only ones involved in the finding of the coins at the original site, February 1975. ~~Cat~~ 178. All other finds by all the other people were found a few at a time at the various disposal sites since then.
- #4 and #5 Comparison of Geo. II half-pennies. Left genuine, right forgery with extra metal.
- #12- Most of my remaining 1699's are housed in this display.
- #16- Comparison of fake 1699 left and genuine 1700 Wm. III half pennies right. Note the crowding of MUS in SVLIELMUS.
- #18- Counterfeit coins in lead, pewter, or whatever.
- #19- Comparison of fake French Ecu left and genuine one on right. The X in REX in the Genuine, is an R over a D in the forgery. Any ideas of the meaning?

In closing, Marshall and I hope that if you are ever in Philadelphia and wish to see our finds, we are only a 20 minute ride over the bridge. (609-547-9295)

Sincerely,
William R. Paull
William R. Paull

LIST OF COINS FOUND AT 1-95 EXCAVATIONS
AND DISCREP. SITES IN PHILADELPHIA, PA. NOV. 74-DEC. 76

<u>QTY</u>	<u>DATE</u>	<u>COIN</u>	<u>DINOM.</u>	<u>MM. or KING</u>
1	1755	SPANISH MILLED DOL.	8 REALES	MEXICO CITY
1	1781	SPANISH (PLUGGED)	1 REAL	CARLOS III
2	1719	BRITANNIA	1/2 PENNY	GEO. I
2	1731	"	"	GEO. II
1	1700	"	"	WM. III
1	1737	"	"	GEO. II
1	1740	"	"	" "
1	1755	"	"	" "
1	1757	"	"	" "
1	1772	"	1/2 PENNY	GEO. III
1	1804	"	"	" "
1	1774	"	1/2 PENNY	" "
1	1735	FRENCH (SILVER)	1/2 LCU	PARIS
1	1681	HISPANIA	1/2 PENNY	CHAR. II
1	1809-17	INDIA	?	?

U.S. COINS

1	1827	UNITED STATES	HALF DOL.	----
1	1794	" "	1/2 LCU	----
1	1797	" "	" "	----
1	1798	" "	" "	----
1	1803	" "	" "	----
1	1812	" "	" "	----
1	1816	" "	" "	----
1	1907	" "	INDIANHEAD 1/2	----

COUNTERFEIT COINS

142*	1699	BRITANNIA	1/2 PENNY	WM. III
1 ea.	1738-47-49	"	" "	GEO. II
1	WORN	" (DOUBLE STRUCK REV.)	"	GEO. III
1	174-	" (EXTRA METAL EDGES)	"	GEO. II
1	1733	FRENCH	1/2 LCU	PAU

*123 Now in possession

Analysis of Size and Weight

William III half-pennies 1699 (forgeries) Of the 123 now in my possession, the following is a sampling of the 38 not on the wall display. I understand that Dave Loll sent you his 72 for analysis and Marshall Overman sent you a typed analysis of most of his 1699's. My list, while not in weight order, I'm sure will show differences in size and weight.

<u>COIN NO.</u>	<u>mm SIZE</u>	<u>grain WEIGHT</u>	<u>COIN NO.</u>	<u>mm SIZE</u>	<u>grain WGT.</u>
1-	27.2-27.3	142.2	20-	27.8-27.7	131.2
2-	27.3-27.2	103.3	21-	27.7-27.8	122.4
3-	26.5-26.4	90.9	22-	25.9-26.4	110.6
4-	26.5-26.2	103.4	23-	27.0-27.3	117.3
5-	26.9-26.8	116.7	24-	26.9-27.0	117.4
6-	26.1-26.7	104.3	25-*	26.5-26.7	83.1
7-	26.8-26.9	106.2	26-	27.0-26.8	112.1
8-	26.2-26.5	98.9	27-	25.9-26.5	84.9
9-	26.6-26.5	120.0	28-	27.4-27.6	134.2
10-	26.7-27.0	111.7	29-	27.4-27.0	129.6
11-	27.2-27.0	130.9	30-**	26.8-26.9	169.5
12-	27.0-27.2	102.3	31-	26.6-27.0	114.3
13-	27.5-27.7	135.5	32-	27.2-27.0	128.7
14-	27.3-27.4	117.0	33-	26.5-26.9	114.3
15-	27.3-27.1	154.7	34-	27.2-27.5	106.5
16-	27.0-26.9	128.5	35-	27.0-27.3	120.1
17-	27.1-27.0	114.9	36-	27.4-27.1	106.8
18-	27.2-27.0	114.4	37-	27.1-26.9	108.2
19-	26.9-27.3	135.1	38-***	27.2-26.9	120.2

The official diameter of the Type II half-pennies should range between 28 and 29 mm. Official weight of this type should weigh between 147.3 and 181.1 grains.

COUNTERFEIT COINS IN LEAD, ETC.

BRITANNIA GEO. II

half-pennies

1738	27.4- 28.1	156.7
1747	29.7- 28.7	133.6
1749	28.9- 28.3(HOLED)	82.3
174?	EXTRA METAL	207.1

GBE. III

UNLEDGEABLE DATE

29.4- 28.9	98.2 ***
------------	----------

FRENCH ECU.

LOUIS XV

1733	41.1-41.1	302.8
------	-----------	-------

* LOW WEIGHT

** HIGH WEIGHT

*** DOUBLE STRUCK REV.

I hope that this helps you in whatever you are writing up and that we all my have a copy of the final result. Good Luck!

WILLIAM R. PAULL

DECEMBER 31, 1976

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 5, 1977

Mr. Marshall E. Overman
218 Fourth Avenue
Mt. Ephraim, NJ 08059

Dear Mr. Overman:

You have done so much research on the coin finds that I think you have qualified for at least a ghost writer. Thanks for your December 31, 1976 letter.

I am sorry I did not previously acknowledge receipt of your coin.

The presence of one of the coins you mention is historically important. It is what you describe as a 1787 British penny. There was no genuine 1787 British copper coinage of any kind. There were, however, imitation British halfpence made near Newburgh, New York, dated 1787 with GEORGIUS III REX on the obverse and BRITANNIA on the reverse. There are several varieties of these imitations. Could you send it to me for identification or make a pencil rubbing by placing a thin piece of paper over each side and zigzagging a pencil over them. Otherwise, a xerox might be legible.

Do you have any objection to the use of your name in the article. I will naturally respect your wishes. I am enclosing a copy of my letter to Mr. Domzalski.

You are very cooperative and I appreciate it.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

jah

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 5, 1977

Mr. Fred Domzalski
1524 E. Berks Street
Philadelphia, PA 19125

Dear Mr. Domzalski:

Mr. Marshall Overman was nice enough to give me your name in connection with our preparation of an article for a national coin publication on the Philadelphia coin finds. I have information from Bill Paull and David Loll, as well as Mr. Overman. I need some facts which you can furnish.

Would you be nice enough to send me a complete list of the coins you found in the dirt disposal sites. I was told that among your finds were a French gold piece and an Immune Columbia copper which no one else found. I assume you did not work the original I-95 site, only the dump sites.

As to the French gold piece, please give me the date, the complete legend, and the diameter.

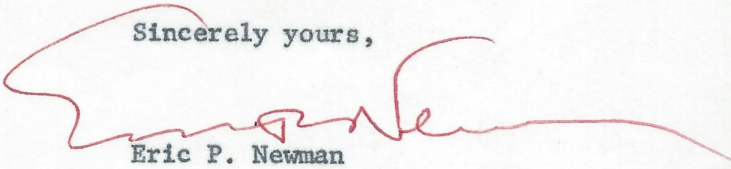
As to the Immune Columbia, would you send me a copy of the magazine in which your RECENT FINDS was published about this piece. I also need a picture of your coin to publish. May I pay the registration to us and take the picture here. It is a very important find.

What other coins did you find (denomination, date and number located).

Please also let me know if you have any objection to the use of your name in the article. I will respect your wishes either way.

I hope to hear from you soon and I believe you will be pleased with the research being done. It is an amazing event.

Sincerely yours,



Eric P. Newman

jah
cc: ✓ Mr. Marshall E. Overman

218 Fourth Ave.
Mt. Ephraim, N.J. 08059
January 11, 1977

Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman:

Glad to hear that you received my letter of December 31, and hope the additional information and slides will be of some help to you.

I'm sorry if I mislead you into thinking I have a rare British penny. Actually I believe it is a token, but you would know better after seeing the enclosed slides. What you can see written around the inside rim is: WE PROMISE TO PAY THE BEARER ONE PENNY. What you can't see is written on the edge which reads: ON DEMAND IN LONDON LIVERPOOL OR ANGLESEY. It weighs approximately 30 grams and is 33.5 millimeters in diameter. It was found at site 2A and as far as I know is the only one like it that was recovered.

I have no objection if you use my name but I'd very much appreciate it if you would mention Mr. Ivor Noel Hume's name in connection with the coins. It was Mr. Noel Hume who first suggested that the coins might be forgeries after examining one that I sent him. He also felt that something should be written about the finding of these coins, etc. In addition he has been most helpful in identifying many of the relics we found.

The RECENT FINDS article was from our club newsletter and as far as I know did not appear anywhere else. If Fred has no objection to your using the write-up, and I'm sure he won't, you need not contact anyone else.

As a last ditch effort to try and come up with a more accurate total count on the 1699's, I'm putting a short notice in our January newsletter requesting that anyone who has found these coins get in touch with Bill Paull or myself. I also wrote to the Delaware club and asked for the same info. I'll keep you advised on the results.

Good luck, and let me know if I can do anything further to help you.

Sincerely,

Marshall E. Overman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 11, 1977

Mr. William R. Paull
16 Albatross Road
Audubon Park, NJ 08106

Dear Mr. Paull:

The letter from Marshall Overman combined with yours of December 31, 1976, has clarified many important items. I am selecting pertinent pictures from each of you and will have them rephotographed on black and white negatives for positive prints for illustration. Yours will be returned hereafter.

There is one coin of yours I would like to examine. It is the George II halfpence in lead which has the flange. You date it as 174-. I seem to see the date 1739 in the film. I agree the original coin model was mounted on wood with edge nails or pins and then pressed into sand for reproduction. Could you send me the piece for photography and study. It probably was made in Philadelphia as it would not have been imported with the flange. The stamped letter S was cut in the genuine coin before its use to make the mold.

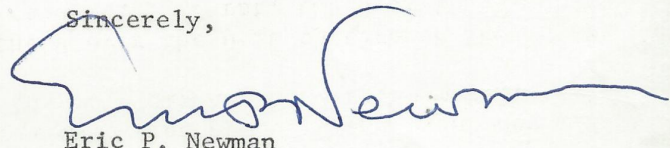
The counterfeit French Ecu may be pewter which meant any mixture of tin and lead at that time. The more tin, the harder the metal.

Your question as to the R over the D in the French Ecu is due to multiple pressing to make a sand mold. First, the D of LUD and then the R of FRA were pressed into the eventual x position. Each pressing was poor so it was done again. The coin was rotated somewhat before being pressed into the sand and this overlapping of lettering took place.

I may come to Philadelphia on business and I'll be delighted to look you up. I will certainly send copies of the article to all of you for correction and after it is printed.

Thank you for your continued help. My co-author, Peter Gaspar, is waiting to hear from England in connection with location of a genuine Type II 1699 halfpenny. I could not locate one in collections of those I know. The coin is well documented in the Peck's compilation of such data so we should get pictures of genuine ones.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

jah

cc: ☒ Mr. Marshall Overman

NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

March 7, 1977

Mr. William R. Paull
16 Albatross Road
Audubon Park, NJ 08106

Dear Mr. Paull:

The work on the forgeries is fascinating and rather complex. The British Museum has helped us and we have had cooperation from everyone, particularly your group of hunters.

I am returning all of your slides. I had a few copied for black and white reproduction.

Your counterfeit coin identification needs some revision and our conclusions are as follows:

The 1733 French ecu is 1773 rather than 1733 and is probably made mostly of cast tin.

The George II $\frac{1}{2}$ d with flange is dated 1738 we believe. The grain is from a slab of wood used to press the sand flat before the master coin was pressed in.

The section of a French ecu is a forgery.

The 1699 counterfeit you call double struck was caused by a double impression in the sand. I am sure you realized this.

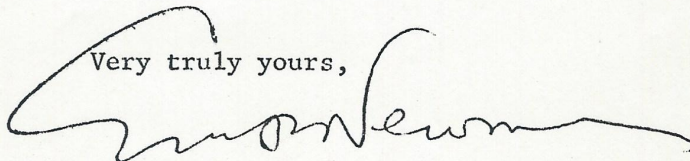
The George III counterfeit is also poorly cast rather than double struck.

Seven of the ten pieces are returned, as the 1773 French ecu, the George II with flange and the 1699 heavy piece are at the lab.

Some further questions are necessary. We would like to determine if the copper halfpence dated 1731, 1737, 1746, 1755, 1757, 1772 or the farthing of 1774 are genuine or counterfeit. This may surprise you but many are counterfeit even in copper. That can wait until your archeologist friend pays his visit, but we would like to see them anytime.

I am hoping to come to Philadelphia to see all of you. We want to reimburse you for the expenses of shipment of items. Please accept our continued thanks for your great cooperation.

Very truly yours,



Eric P. Newman

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS
jah - Encls.

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

APRIL 15, 1977 ?

Mr. William R. Paull
16 Albatross Road
Audubon Park, NJ 08106

Dear Mr. Paull:

Your lock is a most unusual find and I am glad to help. I have written a friend in England about your problem. I will let you know when I hear from him.

The results of testing the three coins which we retained and which we now enclose were interesting.

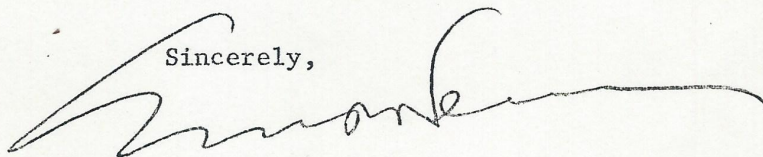
The counterfeit French ecu is dated 1733 and has the young head. It is copied from a specimen minted at Pau. It weighs 203.5 grains and has a specific gravity of 7.27. This is virtually the exact specific gravity of cast tin. Tin was a surplus commodity during the period. A trace of antimony is in the tin as is often the natural condition in which tin was found in England.

The wide flange George II counterfeit weighs 207 grains and has a specific gravity of 11.2. I finally got a good picture of it. It is primarily a lead cast. It is prepared by flattening the sand with a board before impressing the coin nailed on the pattern block. It must have been made in Philadelphia as no self respecting English counterfeiter would ship surplus metal on a coin or deliver such crude striations on his work.

The 1699 counterfeit $\frac{1}{2}$ d measures an average thickness of .0868 inches or .220 cm.

I certainly hope to get to Philadelphia to see all of your finds and those of your friends. The write-up of the project can now begin as the photographs and tests have been occupying our attention primarily.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

jah

Encl.

REGISTERED MAIL

A NON-PROFIT CORPORATION FOR EDUCATION
THROUGH RESEARCH AND EXHIBITION
OF COINS, CURRENCY AND HISTORIC OBJECTS

218 Fourth Ave.
Mt. Ephraim, N.J. 08059
April 19, 1978

Eric P. Newman
6450 Cecil Ave.
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Just a few lines to let you know I received the copies of the Numismatist with your very interesting and obviously well researched story. I think Bill Paull has already received an inquiry from someone wanting to do a follow-up on the story, but I don't know any details.

By the time you receive this, members of our club will have probably searched as a group for the first time this year at the Weccacoe Ave. site. We're having the area bulldozed again before the weeds take over. Hopefully some additional coins and relics will be recovered.

Thanks again for the write-up. I've enjoyed our correspondence and pleased to see something worthwhile come out of our efforts.

Sincerely,

Marshall E. Overman
Marshall E. Overman

218 4th Avenue
Mt. Ephraim, N. J. 08059

July 21, 1977

Eric P. Newman Numismatic Education Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri

Dear Mr. Newman,

It has been several months since I last heard from you and I've been wondering how you are making out with your write-up on the 1699 forgeries.

I guess I can assume you are finished with my slides, and coin so if you think there is no further need for them, I'd appreciate having them returned. However, if you would like to keep them for awhile, just let me know. In either case I'd like to hear how your project is doing.

Our search for colonial relics at the disposal sites continues on a hit or miss basis with many interesting items being recovered. Several coins, including a few more 1699's, have been picked up plus the usual buckles, spoons, misc. tools, etc. A few months ago about eight of us hired a bulldozer operator for a few hours and had several cuts made criss crossing one of the disposal sites. In short order I picked up a 1752 Hibernia halfpenny and a William and Mary tin farthing (16__) date not discernible. Unfortunately this situation didn't last too long and the newly uncovered area was rather thoroughly searched. Since that time only a few individuals have been dedicated to the search, and most of what they found involved a lot of hard work. As of right now, the ground is dry and hard and it's extremely hot. I'd rather be fishing!

Sincerely,

Marshall E. Overman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

July 26, 1977

Mr. Marshall E. Overman
218 4th Avenue
Mt. Ephraim, NJ 08059

Dear Mr. Overman:

We are making excellent progress on the hoard article. The difficulty we have just overcome is getting a nice picture of an identical type genuine piece from which the counterfeit 1699 pieces were made. That just came from Cambridge, England.

I am returning herewith your slides and your coin and pictures. They have been a great help and you have added to our depth by your thorough fact analysis.

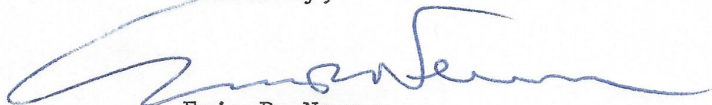
I also found a picture of the Blue Anchor Inn on Dock Creek which I felt I needed to show how things looked when the coins circulated.

The one open matter before finishing is the 1785 Immune Columbia coin which Mr. Domzalski has. I must get a picture of it before I can write about it as it is a major find, and I also need its weight in grains or grams. I'm calling him by phone.

I will be sending you a draft of our article shortly so you can then correct any errors we may make.

Thanks again.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

jah

Encls.

218 Fourth Avenue
Mt. Ephraim, N.J. 08059

September 19, 1977

Eric P. Newman Numismatic Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Just a few lines to let you know how much I enjoyed meeting you and having the opportunity to show you some of my collection.

Too bad you didn't have more time to spend in Phila., but maybe your next visit will be for a longer stay; however, you at least had a chance to see the area of our original find and one of the locations we're still searching.

Your comprehensive research on the 1699's and other counterfeits was fascinating. After reading and rereading the write-up, I feel I have a much better understanding of why and how a halfpence would be worth counterfeiting, something that has disturbed me since we first learned the coins were forgeries. Wouldn't it be interesting if we knew more about the circumstances leading up to their disposal?

As you requested, each of us have read the write-up and feel that you have given an accurate account of the circumstances leading up to our initial find, and subsequent finds at the disposal sites. There are a few areas that I feel need clarification and these have been noted in red on your copy.

Once again let me say it was a pleasure meeting you and I'm happy to be a part of this fascinating write-up.

Please feel free to contact me at any time if I can be of help to you. I'm looking forward to the finished product.

Sincerely,

Marshall E. Overman

Marshall E. Overman

218 Fourth Ave.
Mt. Ephraim, N.J. 08059

January 1⁷, 1978

Eric P. Newman Numismatic Society
6450 Cecil Avenue
St Louis, Missouri 63105

Dear Mr. Newman,

Thought I might start the year off by catching up on my correspondence which is long over due.

In as much as I haven't heard from you since your visit back in Sept., I assume you may have shelved your write-up on the 1699's or still lack certain information to complete the project. In any event, I'd enjoy hearing from you especially after reading the draft you gave me.

Needless to say the winter weather has curtailed further efforts by most of us to continue searching for relics. However, in October our club hired a bulldozer operator for the day and had about a foot of dirt moved off several hundred square feet of the Weccacoe Ave. disposal site (see enclosed B & W pictures). Numerous relics, coins, etc., were recovered, and some of the better coins were found by Fred Domzalski. At any rate it was productive and well worth the expense of having the area bulldozed.

Also enclosed are the pictures I took when you were here. You may keep them.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

Sincerely,

Marshall E. Overman
Marshall E. Overman

ERIC P. NEWMAN NUMISMATIC EDUCATION SOCIETY

6450 Cecil Avenue, St. Louis 5, Missouri

January 23, 1978

Mr. Marshall E. Overman
218 Fourth Avenue
Mt. Ephraim, NJ 08059

Dear Mr. Overman:

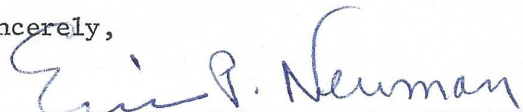
Thank you so much for the photographs of my visit to the dig. That was very thoughtful of you.

The article was submitted to the magazine in December, 1977, complete with all detail, foot notes, pictures, etc. They plan to include it in the March, 1978 number. At that time you will be sent a copy, or if you need additional copies, I will obtain them.

If you and Fred found some additional coins it would be most helpful if you would tell me what was found. I can still add some items to the list of finds, and if there is anything unusual I would certainly like to see them. All of the coins which I have received for study have been returned. Please let me hear from you and Fred promptly as to the new items.

Thanks again for your thoughtfulness.

Sincerely,



Eric P. Newman

jah